

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 having been canceled and replaced by claims 9-24, the claims in this CONTINUATION application.

Claims 9-24 have been carefully drafted to particularly point out and distinctly claims applicants' invention as given in the specification. Claims 9-24 are believed clear and definite, within the meaning of 35 USC 112, and novel and not obvious as required by 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103, over any possible combination of patents to Nilsson, Higgins, Jr., Schafft ('552), Corwin et al, Kohm et al, Lazarus et al., Stein et al. and Schafft ('815), and over any other patents known to applicants.

The applicants' claimed invention, as now set forth in claims 9-24 defines a novel and not obvious electroactive device for providing large mechanical output displacements. Specifically, the electroactive device comprises a layered structure of a prestressing layer and a piezoelectric layer. The prestressing layer, by being heated and then subsequently cooled, bonds to the piezoelectric layer such that a prestress is imparted onto the piezoelectric layer, which places the piezoelectric layer in compression. Further, the bonding of the two layers occurs between the convex surface of the prestressing layer and the concave surface of the piezoelectric layer. These limitations and others, as now particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in claims 9-24, are clearly not obvious from the multiple references cited by the Examiner in rejecting the original claims in the parent application.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to act favorably on the claims now in this CONTINUATION application, allow same, and pass the application to issue without further delay.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kurt G. Hammerle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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